III.   REMARKS

Claims 1-22 remain pending, and are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tyburski in view of Ott et al., US Patent 5,754,674 ("Ott"). Applicant has herein amended claims 1, 8, 16 and 20. No new matter is believed added.

Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

Applicant traverses the rejections of independent claims 1, 8, 16 and 20 because the cited art fails to teach or suggest each and every claim feature as required. For example, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a character position synchronization system that utilizes the positional data stored for the plurality of characters to positionally synchronize corresponding characters from different sets of transduced character information *in which at least one set of transduced character information includes a string of characters having a missing or erroneously added character.*"

Nowhere does Tyburski or Ott teach a character position synchronization system to positionally synchronize corresponding characters from different sets of transduced character information *in which at least one set of transduced character information includes a string of characters having a missing or erroneously added character.* In other words, Applicant's system collects separate sets of character stings, and then positionally synchronizes them when one of the strings includes a missing or erroneously added character. An example of this is shown in Applicant's Figure 3 where the letter *c* is missing from Set B of transduced character information 42.

Tyburski fails to teach or suggest such a concept. Instead, Tyburski merely teaches that if a character cannot be recognized using a first means (e.g., OCR), then a second means (e.g., MICR) is used for identification. (See, e.g., column 4, lines 37-42). When a different signal is generated by MICR versus OCR, Tyburski teaches generating a reject signal. Tyburski "provides an identification signal **only** when both the magnetic and optical readers identify the same characters." (See, e.g., column 8, lines 4-22). Accordingly, Tyburski is clearly not equipped to handle positionally synchronizing different sets of characters in which at least one set is missing or has an extra character.

A further distinction is the fact that Tyburski does not analyze **strings** of characters to perform any type of synchronization. Instead, any synchronization occurring by Tyburski occurs when individual characters are synchronized for reading by the OCR and MICR.

Each of the claims not specifically addressed herein is believed allowable for the reasons stated above, as well as their own unique features.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

_____

Michael F. Hoffman
Reg. No. 40,019

Dated: 7/30/2007

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
75 State Street
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 449-0044 - Telephone
(518) 449-0047 - Facsimile